

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2004

HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

400 HOPE ROAD

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Hope Highlands School with the following members present: Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mrs. White. Mr. Eramian was absent; he had a business appointment. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto and Mr. Balducci.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel under RI State Law 42-46-5(1) and contract and litigation under RI State Law PL 42-46-5(2).

The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Mrs. White stated for the record that Mr. Eramian was absent because he had a business appointment.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the August 16, 2004 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stycos commented that he learned a couple of weeks ago that RIPTA plans to run a bus starting in September from the Arlington neighborhood to Cranston East and from Edgewood to Cranston East both at the start of the school day and at the end of the school day to take children home. They are aiming at the students who live inside the two-mile limit for busing. He wished to let everyone know about these additional buses and asked if publicity could be sent out about this additional service. The students would have to pay for this service. Mr. Drager asked if RIPTA would offer a discount to students, and Mr. Stycos indicated that he had not asked if there would be a discount. Mr. Lupino commented that RIPTA is offering this service, but they have not notified anyone of its availability. Mr. Stycos said that he was told that the service was available the end of last year for Edgewood, but he was not sure about Arlington. He was

concerned that this needed some publicity. Mr. Lupino suggested that this information should be made available before the Cranston East hot dog roast that will be coming up shortly. It could be announced to those parents and students attending the hot dog roast. Mr. Drager added that he read in the newspaper that RIPTA is cutting back 40% on their runs, and he didn't know if this were included in their cutback. Mr. Stycos said he called RIPTA, and they confirmed it to him. He believes that RIPTA has a grant to provide this extra transportation. Mr. Drager commented that, if this is the case, there should be discounts for students. Mr. Cardarelli stated that when he represented Ward 1 he contacted RIPTA regarding a cross-town bus for the students because this was a hot issue in Edgewood. There were plans then for this bus for Park Avenue, and there was some type of funding involved. It was on the drawing board long before Mr. Cardarelli contacted them. At that time, RIPTA was not interested in offering student discounts. He felt it should be promoted so that the students would not have to cross main streets.

Mr. Stycos requested that Mr. Zisseron compile a report for the update regarding what is happening with these buses so that they can be publicized. In addition, he can find out about the rider ship and the possible student discount.

Mr. Stycos indicated that several months ago he had asked about the Adult Education classes and that some of them might be financially

self-sufficient and, therefore, possible to continue. At the time, Mr. Cofone had said that Mrs. Salone would look into it. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she knew that Mrs. Salone was busy moving from Sanders School to Norwood Avenue School. If a program is self-sufficient and there is no need to pay a custodian to be in the building for a class, she didn't think there would be a problem running a program.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if Mr. Marrocco had taken over the portion of Sanders School that had been occupied by Adult Education, and Mr. Marrocco responded that he has a very small portion of the Sanders building. Mrs. Ciarlo wants to put additional programs there, but she wants to wait one year to see where things stand. Eventually, all of the space will be used. She plans to have the Alternate Program and Food Service at Sanders now, and then move to have the Alternate Program and Adult Education at Norwood Avenue School. Math Science would remain at Park View for this year, and she is hoping to have a math science bus go from school to school to deliver the kits and do experiments with the students.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lupino stated that he was submitting the Coaching Committee Report as a part of the record. In his report he gave an overview of the last three meetings that were held. The committee took a little

longer than he anticipated. There was a lot of discussion

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that is not included in this report. He suggested that the Coaching Committee have a discussion with the entire School Committee at a work session at some point in the future. If the committee has any questions or concerns, they can contact him. Mrs. White commented that if she can fit it into the next work session agenda, it will be held on September 14th.

Mr. Lupino stated that with regard to the School Buildings Committee there were some concerns from members of the School Committee regarding some rumors that were circulating concerning Orchard Farms Elementary School. The school will open on time, and Mr. Lupino has received assurances from the contractor working on the project and the chief engineer for the City of Cranston. Some temporary measures may have to be made at some of the entrances with regard to bringing it back up to grade after the frost from last winter.

III. MINUTES – July 13, 2004; July 19, 2004

Moved by Mr. Drager, seconded by Mr. Lupino and carried that the minutes of July 13, 2004 and July 19, 2004 be approved. Mr.

Cardarelli was absent for the vote.

IV. SPEAKERS – Agenda items

Alex Caserta, 90 Derbyshire Drive – He addressed the committee regarding the resolutions concerning the Nutrition Committee. He indicated the committee spent approximately six months working on the information being presented to the committee this evening. The committee was made up of a large number of people, and many of them do not have a background in education. They were able to address a number of issues, but some of the issues, such as scheduling at the high schools, could not be properly addressed because all the members felt they did not have a background in that area. He knows that the committee is recommending twenty-two minutes for a lunch period at the high school level, and he suggested that it be twenty-five or thirty minutes. In order to allow the students to get to the cafeteria on time, sit down, grab a lunch and eat without choking themselves, being able to let off a little steam and have a conversation with fellow students, and preparing themselves to go back to class, they need at least twenty-five minutes. All of the information the committee gathered during the past six months and all of the reports they read showed that twenty-five to thirty minutes are what students should have. A number of schools do allow thirty-minute lunches. He understands that there are problems the principals deal with in terms of scheduling, but four different

schedules were presented during one of their meetings, and there wasn't a lot of feedback regarding those schedules. From what they gathered, the lunch period was extended from eighteen minutes to twenty minutes, but

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he didn't believe that two-minute intervals were an extension for allowing a number of things the Nutrition Committee was recommending. This not only allows the students more time to eat their lunch but also if the Nutrition Committee is to be taken seriously in the recommendations that were being made, a number of issues come up in terms of food that is being prepared. The Food Service Program is extremely limited in what they can do in an eighteen to twenty minute period of time. If healthy foods are to be brought in and some of the items that are not so healthy removed, in all fairness to the Director of the Lunch Program, he will need the time required to prepare the food so that the students can make healthy choices. Twenty minutes doesn't allow for this.

The committee was also concerned about the soda vending machines. Ethically speaking, it was not a good idea knowing that the soda machines are coming into the schools and dropping off \$40,000 at a high school. Some of the contracts with these vending machine companies are as long as eight years. It doesn't sound like good business ethics. If this were to happen on the outside, many

questions would be raised. He would like to see the School Committee take a serious look at the amount of time that is being offered and realize that this is not just about students having more time to put food in their mouths but it is also about other issues. He hoped that the School Committee would take the resolutions presented in a very serious manner and will vote positively for the work that has been accomplished. He had suggested to Mrs. White that one of the larger food companies that delivers to the school system adopt a kitchen. There is a very small percentage of kitchens in the school system that are actually operative. When he attended school in Cranston, they were all operating and serving hot meals. It is now down to five schools offering hot meals. The meals are now satellited to other schools. He felt that they should all be in operation. If it is a matter of fixing things, these companies could be approached to adopt a kitchen to pay for the repairs. The School Committee would have to come up with additional funding to staff the kitchens to prepare nutritional food. At the present time, the choices are extremely limited, and the options are not very good.

Valerie Schullie, Farm Street – She stated that she found much of the Nutrition Committee Report disturbing. She works in the lunchroom every day and is an active parent who sits on two School Improvement Teams. Above all that, she is a United States citizen who takes her job as a parent very seriously. She sees this as further government regulations chipping away at her rights to make decisions for her children with even more regulations. She doesn't

want the Nutrition Committee to decide what she can and cannot feed her children or what she can place in her child's lunch which is an option everyone has. She does agree with educating children so that they will have the capabilities to make decisions. She has no problem with an occasional soda for her children. Eighteen-minute lunches are a facilities issue. Provide the proper facility, and the high schools and Western Hills can go back to three lunch periods, and the problem would be solved. At Western Hills, because they continue to get more students without the infrastructure to support them, they have four lunch periods. This is a loss of

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twenty-five minutes per day of educational time. In a week's time, it is a loss of 145 minutes of educational time. She would happily take that back for her child if the facility could do so. At Cranston East and Cranston West, it is a facility issue as well. Working in the lunchroom, she does not see the need for a longer lunch period. She doesn't want to give up one more minute of her child's educational time for a longer lunchtime. With regard to soda machines, the School Committee should decide it. Middle school parents provide money for their children. If a parent doesn't wish his or her child to drink soda, then they must tell this to their child. At the high school level, these students are making schedule choices, public service choices, friends choices, and dating choices. Some drive, some have jobs and some vote; and they cannot make a decision when they go

to a machine as to whether or not they want a soda or water. If they can't, then everyone should look at education. With regard to fund raising, it would be her choice to fully fund schools so that the students would do no fund raising, but that is not an option. The students should be educated so that they know they have other choices. If they choose to candy sale, they should know that no one is pressuring them to buy the candy. There are studies coming out of Harvard University that indicate that chocolate is good for you. She has worked in the lunchroom for some time, and she can count on one hand the number of students who have walked into the cafeteria with a can of soda in their hands. With regard to the pizza issue, at Cranston East there are 33 pizzas delivered each day which amounts to 108 slices of pizza. That portion is served to all the students and staff. Not quite every student is buying pizza every day. They do serve apples, pears and oranges as well. When it comes to lunches, she takes it very personally. She and the kitchen staff work very hard to provide for the students. She stated some of the choices available for the students. Eggplant Parmigiana, Mexican rice mix, grilled chicken romano, steak and pepper calzone, veggie calzone, Italian calzone, chicken and pasta with roasted peppers, baked macaroni with meatballs, five cheese lasagna, shepherd pie, Spanish rice with chicken, chicken stir fry wrap, baked macaroni and cheese, American chop suey, etc. As one can see, there are already wonderful things going on in the schools, and they are trying to improve upon nutrition every day, and this is being done without any mandates.

Brad Draycott, Nutrition Committee Member, 1345 Seven Mile Road – He distributed a copy of his statement for the committee. A copy is attached for the record. He noted that a lot of information was dispersed to the committee. Much of it was taken from the Internet and from studies being done across the country by very prominent and credible sources.

Jordan Bruno, 14 Rose Street – He stated that he was speaking as the parent of two children who will be attending Cranston Public Schools.

He asked Mr. Draycott if he was a candidate for Ward 5 School Committee, and Mr. Draycott indicated that he was. He also asked Mr. Stycos if Mr. Draycott's statement was his opinion or that of the entire committee, and Mr. Stycos indicated that it was the Nutrition Committee's opinion. Mr. Bruno stated that he was insulted by Mr. Draycott's report. He indicated that he

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would speak again before the School Committee if his children's time in the classroom is reduced because some people want lunch extended. He said that he does a great job with his children's nutrition. If he wants to send cookies, he will. If he wants to send grapes, he will; but do not take time away from his children because some people want to extend lunchtime. He attended Bain and West, and there were no problems during lunch period. He questioned the fact that Mr. Stycos did not invite him to serve on this committee, and

it was due to the fact that he is on the other side. If the committee wants to put up posters about healthy eating habits, that is fine. During the elementary grades is the time to do this. With the big class sizes, the students need all the time they can get in class. He knows it is political season, and he knew the name sounded familiar.

Deb Greifer, Richland Road, Member of the Nutrition Committee – She asked that everyone read the wording of the resolutions pertaining to the Nutrition Committee. Some people are portraying them as being Draconian and likened them to nutrition Nazis. She doesn't believe that the resolutions as written accomplish that. They are not forbidding fundraisers. Many of these measures are not marching orders but proposals to study, make recommendations and consider certain practices. This committee worked very hard, and people came from all different attitudes toward the school lunch and breakfast programs. In the end, she felt the committee reached an excellent compromise. She hoped the School Committee would consider each of the resolutions.

Edmond Lemoi, Principal, Cranston High School West – He stated that he was a member of this committee and participated in all the meetings. He was, however, unable to attend the work session with the School Committee when the Nutrition Committee presented its report. There was a diverse committee made up of parents, administrators, and teachers who did meet for an extensive period of time to discuss many issues. When one views all these issues, he

did not think one can find one that has no merit. This is a wonderful report that came out from this committee, but there are a lot of individual perspectives and agendas included in the resolutions. He felt that each person had to look at the bigger picture issues. He further stated that some of the resolutions point to what can be taught in the schools and what is taught in the schools with regard to health classes so that nutrition plays a larger role somehow and in some way. When one begins to overlay all the other responsibilities that there are in an educational institution, it is time to revisit the school's primary responsibility and primary mission of a school. The schools have incorporated sex education, incorporated with dealing with social diseases, dealing with drugs, dealing with alcoholism, dealing with friendly structure, dealing with child abuse, and a number of other issues where society has become more complex. One can say that a little thing is no big deal, but they are becoming a big deal. When the breakfast program first started, there was to be no direct cost to the schools because part of it was funded. It is now a universal breakfast program, and there are approximately 300 students taking part in the program. The

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school has to supervise this program at 7:00 a.m. when no one is assigned to the program, and it costs money. The custodian and the cafeteria workers are not funded. There is much to be cleaned up after 300 students eat breakfast. All of these little things are

beginning to add up. There are more and more unfunded mandates that they will experience over the next year than they ever had before at the secondary level. He noted that Mr. Caserta's issue regarding the amount of time for lunch has been an ongoing issue, and they have been going back and forth. The school has adjusted its schedule to try to have the school go into a personalization program which is another unfunded mandate. The school has been wrestling with trying to get longer educational periods because the research supports it. If he could add a couple more things to the schedule, he would gladly do it. The teachers' contract allows teachers to be in the building a certain length of time, and they are wrestling with the mandate from the Commissioner of Education to have five hours and thirty minutes of directly related instruction. Next year they will be dealing with making sure that every child is offered that five hours and thirty minutes. This will cost the district to hire ten to fourteen additional teachers to do this in the high schools next year. There are many big issues they will be dealing with next year.

With regard to vending machines, Cranston should be recognized as one of the more progressive districts with regard to offering choices. He doesn't think there is one school in the district that doesn't offer milk, soda, juice, sports drinks, and water in the vending machines in each location. He commented that a parent spoke about the students having responsibility at the high school level, and items are offered so that the students can make choices. This is an issue that the School Committee will have to deal with. It is: what is our role and

responsibilities as a public institution in terms of what we sell and what we don't sell? Cranston should be recognized as having some of the first healthy choices in the schools. The vending machines, even prior to Healthy Choices, offered alternatives. The vending machines were asked to offer snacks that were low sugar, low sodium choices. The school's healthy choice vending machine is empty half of the time because the items are not available and can't deliver the product. If the items are not offered in the vending machines, the students will get in their cars and go to Dunkin Donuts and McDonald's which is the other side of not being practical. He didn't feel that there was one principal or administrator who wanted to offer items that were addictive. They want healthy opportunities for them.

As to whether or not it is ethically correct for schools to make money off vending machines, the soda machines have been in the schools since the day they opened. The fact of the matter is there was no need to make a profit from the revenue on those machines because the school district was funded properly. The soda companies made all the money. When things became tough in the City of Cranston, the middle and high school principals recognized the fact that they had to come up with creative ways to fund things. During his first graduation exercise at West, the choir sang and they looked like a rag-tag bunch of kids. There was no pride in the uniform they wore, and he said

that was the last time that this would happen. The following year, the school signed a soda contract, and he bought new choir robes for them. When he first had the soda contracts, he do those nice things to buy the extras for the students. The soda money goes back to the students for services. Each year the needs change depending upon what happens with the School Committee. The school has funded scoreboards, robes, curtains, field trips, and teacher substitutes for students to go on field trips. Last year the school hit an all-time low for materials and supplies. Out of his school soda money, he funded \$7,000 to buy cartridges for the computers, paper for the Xerox machines, and to have the typewriters fixed. Some of the School Committee members would remember the time when the schools had an activity account, and they received 85 cents per student. Two years ago that stopped. This was \$1,500 to \$1,700 that was taken away. They also had a petty cash fund of 15 cents per student. None of this exists any longer. In 1964, when he started teaching, there were soda and candy machines. The soda machine contracts have become an opportunity to make money, and now those resources come back to the students to provide the best services they can. The books are open in his school to view where the money goes. He told Mr. Caserta that if he could devise a better schedule, he would be open to his suggestions. He stated that he was willing to work with this committee. He asked the committee not to review each of these resolutions by themselves because each of them has implications in

what is done in the schools.

V. RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 04-8-5 – Whereas, students from the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center have distinguished themselves through competing in the National Skills USA-VICA Competitions in Kansas City, Missouri June 21 to June 27, 2004, and

Whereas, the following students have distinguished themselves on the national level by winning or finishing in the top twenty-fifth percentile in their respective competitions:

Christine Benetti 2nd Place Robotics Workcell Tech

Alexis Collins 2nd Place Robotics Workcell Tech

Sheila Vasquez 3rd Place Community Service

Theresa Soloyna 3rd Place Community Service

Steven Hebner 10th Place Electronics Technology

Merideth Marchetti 11th Place Preschool Teaching Assistant

Ryan Adams 13th Place Prepared Speech

Alicia Yattaw 16th Place Job Skill B – Aquaculture

Dayna Laorenza 19th Place Graphics Communication

Brian Kenny 23rd Place Advertising Design

Gina Pezza 25th Place` Promotional Bulletin Board

Nicholas DeRobbio 25th Place Promotional Bulletin Board

Be it RESOLVED that the Cranston School Committee extend its congratulations to all of these students and Mrs. Jean Campbell, Principal/Director; faculty and staff of the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center; and Skills USA-VICA Advisors, Martha Sylvestre and Aimee Duarte; and teachers, Elaine Arbor, Albert Difazio, Edd Spidell, Louis Giglietti, and Leonard Baker.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino read the Resolution.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

SPONSORED BY MR. STYCOS

NO. 04-8-6 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee directs the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a proposed schedule for Cranston High School East and Cranston High School West that includes a minimum of a 22- minute lunch period by the November School Committee Work Session. The proposal should include arguments both for and against the proposal.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this

Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos stated that he wished to clarify Mr. Bruno's previous comments. He indicated that the only appointment he made was one person from his ward. Each School Committee member made an appointment. He did not pack the committee.

Mr. Stycos noted that this Resolution, if passed, would enable the School Committee to see a good analysis of the types of issues that Mr. Lemoi pointed out with all these different pressures put on them. The committee would have some information on what would be the impact of the twenty-two minutes for lunch with the pluses and the minuses, and then the committee could take it from there as they saw fit.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that this was something that would have to be done in the high schools in conjunction with their schools. She would not want a time line for this because there are so many others that must be done. This is not a top priority of her list. It would make sense to consider this at the time the schedules are started after the first of the year.

Mr. Drager referred to the wording regarding directing the Superintendent to propose a schedule, and he stated that he didn't feel this was her job. It is the responsibility of the principal in each school to develop their schedules. The Superintendent has more

pressing issues. If the wording remained the same, he would vote against the resolution.

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Mr. Cardarelli stated that he was going to ask Mr. Stycos to support an intent amendment that the Superintendent be allowed to hand this over to the principals of East and West so that they can report back to the School Committee at their discretion of what they feel are the pros and cons of going to the twenty-two minute lunch and report back to Mrs. Ciarlo as to the arguments for it and against it. When she receives the report, she could then pass it on to the School Committee. He further commented that he would support the last recommendation that this go until June 2005. This would give everyone enough time so that they would not be locked into a time frame.

Mr. Stycos commented that this was his intention when he wrote it. He wrote Superintendent because she is the head of this system. It is up to her to delegate the responsibility. He hoped that she would bring the principals into it.

Mr. Palumbo stated that the Nutrition Committee did an excellent job, and he appreciated their work. The problems people are running into is that if one is not in the trenches one doesn't realize what can be

done and cannot be done. The district has a state education department that is telling the district that it has to extend the day, and the Nutrition Committee is saying that the lunch period should be extended. The problem is that most of this comes down to finance. The cafeterias are not large enough to have fewer lunch periods. The schools do not have the facilities, and in order to do these things, the schools must have the room. The district has to have the money to spend on the cafeterias. They are bursting at the seams, and they are being used for study halls or for instruction as well. He doesn't think there is any principal who would not fight to extend the lunch periods. The reason the lunch periods are what they are right now is due to the fact that all of the students can't be accommodated in the present cafeterias. Until that problem is addressed, and as much as this is desirable, it won't be done. As one who worked scheduling classes, there is only so much one can do with the schedules. Unless a school has the facilities, it won't be allowed to have fewer lunch periods. The school day can't be extended because of the teacher contracts. As much as he appreciates what the Nutrition Committee is trying to do and until the problem is solved of making the cafeterias larger or the school larger to accommodate the students and the people fight for the finances in order to do this, it can't be done.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he agreed with Mr. Palumbo's comments. This is allowing the principals to memorialize what Mr. Palumbo said. Mr. Frederick will state that he doesn't have the facility large enough

to accommodate longer lunch periods. Knowing what Mr. Frederick has been going through for a number of years, that will probably be his first point. The committee would be asking the principals to list the reasons for and against why it can't be accomplished. Mr. Lemoi and Mr. Frederick are the best principals in the state.

Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Lemoi when he established the current twenty-minute lunch period, did he use every available time that he possibly could, and Mr. Lemoi responded

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that he is within one minute of meeting the mandate of five hours and thirty minutes. Mr. Lupino asked Mr. Lemoi if he has any more time left, and Mr. Lemoi said that he did not. Mr. Lupino stated that he would vote against this resolution because he felt this function has already been addressed. He agreed with his colleague that this is a facility situation. Mr. Lemoi had the opportunity three years ago to have three lunch periods with a new cafeteria based on a population projection from the city planning department. They said there would be 1,600 and 1,700 students at West. Mr. Lemoi said there are 1,851 and more coming. Mr. Lupino added that this is another part of the factor. It worked well for one year with the new cafeteria, but it went away very quickly.

This Resolution failed due to a tie vote. Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Stycos,

and Mrs. White were in favor; Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, and Mr. Palumbo were opposed.

NO. 04-8-7 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee endorses the Food Service Director's effort to experiment with ideas to increase sales of more nutritious foods and report back to the Nutrition Committee in October 2004.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Drager suggested that the Food Service Director should report back to the School Committee and that he would give him more time to try different things. October 2004 is not sufficient enough time. Mr. Marrocco stated that he would need more time; he would like to report back by January 1, 2005. Mr. Stycos added that if Mr. Marrocco needed more time to experiment with the various foods, then he should be granted the extra time. Mrs. Ciarlo added that Mr. Marrocco should report back to the Superintendent.

Mr. Lupino moved to amend the last sentence of the Resolution as follows: ...report back to the Superintendent who in turn will report to the School Committee by January 1, 2005.

Mrs. White stated that the School Committee should get a copy of that report. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that Mr. Marrocco should bring a

draft copy to the Nutrition Committee with a final copy to the School Committee. Mr. Stycos commented that prior to that the Nutrition Committee will meet with Mr. Marrocco to see what might work and not work. Mrs. Ciarlo said that this committee should put the pieces together and then sign off on it. Mrs. White stated that a draft copy would go to Mrs. Ciarlo. This report will be presented to the Nutrition Committee by January 1, 2005 and it will be given to Mrs. Ciarlo by the Nutrition Committee by January 31, 2005.

Mr. Drager seconded the motion.

This Amendment was adopted unanimously.

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This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

It now reads as follows:

NO. 04-8-7 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee endorses the Food Service Director's effort to experiment with ideas to increase sales of more nutritious foods and report back to the School Committee by January 1, 2005.

NO. 04-8-8 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee requests that the Superintendent prepare a proposal on improving nutrition education

in the high schools.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Cardarelli moved to change the wording as follows: ...that the Superintendent direct the Food Service Director prepare a proposal on improving nutrition education in the high schools.

Mr. Drager seconded the motion.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that they were talking about nutrition and health education and that Dr. Paul Cardoza should be included as well. He would include the latest health reports regarding this.

Mr. Cardarelli withdrew his motion. Mr. Drager withdrew his second.

Mr. Stycos stated that the Superintendent should feel free to put together whomever she would like. There are health educators and family and consumer science teachers who will be helpful in this endeavor.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-9 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee shall send a letter to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation members asking

that they work to make Rhode Island one of the states participating in the Fruit and Vegetable Program that currently provides free fruit and vegetable snacks to children in eight states, and that they work with Cranston to obtain grants to promote healthy eating and physical activity, including farm-to-school initiatives. The School Committee also authorizes the School Nutrition Committee to meet with the Congressional delegation on these issues.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos stated that this Resolution was a little more specific than indicated in the report. This is in reaction to Mr. Eramian's comments made at the work session. This

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tries to focus in on the fact that there is a free fruit and vegetable program which is operated in eight states. The purpose of this Resolution would be to get the Congressional delegation to work with Rhode Island and secondly there is a new grant program that has been approved by Congress but no funds have been approved yet. This Resolution would ask the Congressional delegation to keep an eye out for grant proposals for Cranston to do some good things.

Mrs. Ciarlo hoped that the school administration and the Nutrition

Committee could meet with them as well. When she last saw some people from the state they were interested in what is being done in Cranston. The state delegation should have a power point presentation to bring to Washington with them. Mrs. White asked Mr. Stycos to let administration know ahead of time when the committee would be meeting with them.

Mr. Lupino moved to amend this Resolution as follows: strike the last sentence of this Resolution. He didn't think the School Committee had the authority to authorize anyone to meet regarding interests of the schools. By School Committee policy and the City Charter, the committee cannot act as individuals without an power or authority. He asked that the last sentence be striked. Some communication amongst the members can be going back and forth, but the Nutrition Committee shouldn't meet with the congressional delegation.

Mrs. Ciarlo noted that the Superintendent could invite members of the delegation, and they could work around it.

With regard to striking the last sentence, Mr. Drager asked if the school administration could meet with the delegation, and Mrs. White stated that the last sentence should be changed. Mr. Cardarelli added that the school administration doesn't need permission to meet with them nor does the School Nutrition Committee need the School Committee's permission to meet with the delegation. The School Committee authorized the formation of the School Nutrition

Committee, and if members of that committee, even Mr. Stycos himself, wants to meet with the Congressional delegation to discuss the matter of nutrition beneficial to the kids, they can do it.

This Amendment was adopted with Mr. Cardarelli opposed.

This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

The Resolution reads as follows:

NO. 04-8-9 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee shall send a letter to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation members asking that they work to make Rhode Island one of the states participating in the Fruit and Vegetable Program that currently provides free fruit and vegetable snacks to children in eight states, and that they work

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with Cranston to obtain grants to promote healthy eating and physical activity, including farm-to-school initiatives.

NO. 04-8-10 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee adopts a policy that no prepared food, except food prepared by the Food Service Program, the Culinary Arts Program at the Career and Technical Center, or other school supervised food program (such as Panda's Pantry at Cranston High School East and Family and Consumer

Science classes) may be sold in the schools. This policy does not apply to vending machines and exceptions can be made with the approval of the Food Service Director.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Cardarelli that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Drager stated that this Resolution would prohibit PTG's from having bake sales, etc. throughout the schools. Because of that and with other functions dealing with sporting events, there would be no concessions. He would vote against this Resolution. Mrs. White asked Mr. Stycos about school groups that would conduct spaghetti suppers, and Mr. Stycos responded that the Nutrition Committee's intention was not to stop things like that or the brownies that are served at plays at Cranston West. Their intention was to funnel these things through the Food Service Director so that he would have a handle on them to know what was going on in order to have some food safety concerns. Their intention was not to ban those functions.

The committee felt they could not make rules, but it would be handled better with the approval of the Food Service Director on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Cardarelli felt that Mr. Marrocco would be inundated with calls. Mr. Marrocco responded that the intention was that if someone were to sell brownies at a school function, they could purchase them through Food Services; it would be less expensive. If someone made

them at home and not knowing the home sanitary conditions, it would prevent children from getting sick. If something were to be made at home, he would send home a flyer telling the parent to use sanitary conditions when preparing the foods.

Mr. Lupino asked if this appeared to be a monopoly. He told Mr. Marrocco that the parents could save money by purchasing them from him, but if he were to buy a package of brownie mix and use his electricity, he questioned how Mr. Marrocco could make the brownies for less than he could. A parent would be doing it out of the goodness of their heart. This person would be donating the brownies. He asked Mr. Marrocco if he would have the time to supervise this, and Mr. Marrocco responded that it was a thought that came to the table. It could be done through a catering business. Mrs. White stated that she didn't think it was a good idea.

Mr. Palumbo stated that this Resolution was much too general. Unless it was rewritten, he would vote against it.

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Mrs. Ciarlo suggested that it would very helpful to work through the PTO's to update them on food allergies and food preparation. This would be much more important. She has confidence in the principals that they will make the appropriate decisions and will ask the proper questions when situations arise. She doesn't want to restrict the

mothers from helping out.

Mr. Stycos commented that the key to this Resolution is the food sold in the schools. Mr. Marrocco already operates a catering service. He prepares the meals that the School Committee eats before meetings. If people are going to be bringing food into the school to sell to the children, there needs to be some type of sanitary control. The school system cannot have a situation where they are asking the school lunch program to be self-supporting financially at the same time that open season is being declared for any group to come in and sell food that competes with his program. There is the food safety issue along with siphoning money off the lunch program that could be used to include the food offerings.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he disagreed with Mr. Stycos on some issues and agreed with him on other issues. He felt that the lunch program should be exclusively for the health and safety of the students. Its financial overall well-being is in the interest of the School Committee, the student's interest, and the district's interest. There is no question about it. It is a serious issue when someone brings in food to the schools relative to food allergies and sanitation. No one takes this matter lightly. He can understand why Mr. Marrocco should be involved in these decisions. He feels the committee is concerned that the PTO's have a right to run events in these schools that are not associated with lunches. They are running after school events or after lunch is over and bringing in food at that

time. They are mindful and responsible parents and know what is going on. The principals and teachers are trained professionals who know the responsibilities they have with children and are well aware of children's allergies. He feels there is a very safe environment for the children in the classrooms, and the professionals don't leave much to chance. He suggested that this resolution be rewritten.

Moved by Mr. Drager, seconded by Mr. Lupino and carried to move the question. Mr. Cardarelli and Mr. Stycos were opposed.

This Resolution failed with Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mrs. White opposed. Mr. Stycos was in favor.

NO. 04-8-11 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee requests that the Superintendent of Schools direct the Food Service Director to prepare food preparation and nutrition guidelines to distribute to anyone preparing free food for birthday parties or other school events. The voluntary guidelines should emphasize food safety, awareness of food allergies, and encourage fruits and vegetables for snacks instead of high sugar and high fat items.

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Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Cardarelli that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Drager asked who would absorb the cost to distribute guidelines, etc. Mr. Stycos responded that this wasn't discussed. He believed that the Food Service Director and the principals would handle the cost. It could be done in the school newsletters, on the back of the lunch school menu, or a separate flyer. This would be an administrative decision that wouldn't involve the School Committee. Mr. Drager indicated that if there are extra costs, it should be considered. Mr. Drager asked if it could be put on line. Mr. Stycos said that he would trust the administrators to disseminate it economically. The Food Service Director is working at the direction of the Superintendent. The Superintendent is relying on other people she wishes to assist him and direct him to distribute the guidelines. She can tell him not to spend any money and to keep it in his food service budget. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended that it be placed on the menus to save money because the district is so short on supplies in the schools. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Marrocco if he had extra money, and he said that he did not.

Mr. Stycos added that this was the same resolution as was in the report, but he did add "voluntary guidelines and recommendations."

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Lupino opposed and Mr. Palumbo absent for the vote.

Mrs. White called a recess at 8:55 p.m.

Mrs. White reconvened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

NO. 04-8-12 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee requests that the Superintendent of Schools recommend that secondary principals form school based committees to improve cafeteria atmosphere and increase educational posting of nutritional information. Results of the committee’s work shall be reported to the Nutrition Committee by January 2005.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.

This Resolution failed because of a tie vote. Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Stycos voted in favor. Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, and Mrs. White were opposed.

NO. 04-8-13 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee adopts a policy that vending machines may sell 100 per cent juice, water and milk all day in the middle and high schools, but that other drinks (soda, sports drinks) may be sold only after school.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Cardarelli that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino stated that this Resolution was a moot issue because most of the machines he has seen have juice products and water, and milk is available in the cafeteria.

Mr. Cardarelli commented that he was against this Resolution. He seconded the motion because he wanted to give Mr. Stycos an opportunity to speak on this Resolution. While he is in favor of the concept of having vending machines that sell 100% juice and water, he felt the principals should have the discretion to run their schools, and these students who are the young men and women of the future should have the discretion to make choices. He doesn't want to take this away from them. The decision should be left up to them. He agreed with Mr. Lupino's comments.

Mr. Stycos remarked that this was a difficult issue the committee dealt with, and this proposal was a compromise proposal that balances the revenue needs of the high schools with some nutritional goals. Most of the money in the secondary schools varies depending upon the contracts, and as high as $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money received from soda companies come in upfront payments. Those are not based on sales; they are just based on an upfront payment. It is a cash payment at the beginning of the school year. Those would not be jeopardized by this policy. What might be jeopardized is the other provision in the contracts that contain a percentage of sales. The Nutrition Committee felt that if a child wanted to buy something, and

they can't buy soda and sports drinks during the school day, they will buy something else instead such as 100% juice, water, or milk. After school, there would be a concession if a student chose to have soda or a sports drink. It will enable the schools to capture sales at athletic events and after various sports practices. That is the compromise the Nutrition Committee was trying to reach with this Resolution. It would encourage the healthy drinks during the school day. It also addresses the problem of students going to the soda machines, buying a soda, and then taking it into the cafeteria.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he was on the Nutrition Committee, but because of his wife's work schedule, it didn't allow him to attend many of the meetings. There was a lively, intense debate over this issue. The principals have a pulse for what is going on in their schools, and they can make rationale and educated decisions on this issue. However, there was one woman at one of the meetings who indicated that two school districts had negotiated contracts with healthier alternatives to soda, and they were lucrative contracts as well. Mr. Stycos knows who this person is, and he could put her in touch with Mr. Fredericks and Mr. Lemoi. They may be able to facilitate the same type of contracts and the same type of bargaining power for next year. He would like to leave this issue in those two principals' hands. If it is capable in other schools, it is capable of happening in Cranston. Kids will purchase what they want to purchase. In 1981, no one drank coffee when he graduated from high school. Now, when he drives by Cranston East in the morning going

to work, the Honey Dew Donut Shop near the school is mobbed with kids buying coffee. Now it is common place for students to buy coffee before school. Things change as they go along, and kids will buy what they

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want. He asked what the nutritional value of coffee was compared to soda. He felt it was best to leave it up to the principals to negotiate this.

Mr. Stycos pointed out that what is going on with soda is going on with coffee. There are very sophisticated marketing campaigns to get kids to drink coffee. Not only will they buy it now, but also the companies will get them for the rest of their lives. That is what the soda companies are doing with these upfront payments. They are branding the kids so that they get them early drinking either Pepsi or Coke and they have them for their entire lives drinking these products. That is why this Resolution is so important that this cycle is discouraged. When he was a kid, milk was the dominant drink. It was 2/3 milk to 1/3 soda; now it is 2/3 soda to 1/3 milk. The soda companies have successfully marketed soda and rammed it into the refrigerators, and kids are suffering nutritional consequences of getting fat and increased cases of diabetes. This is one small step the committee can take to reverse that trend.

Mr. Cardarelli commented that there aren't any milk machines in the high schools, and Mr. Stycos thought there was one. Mr. Lemoi added that they did have milk machines, but they couldn't continue them because the company was charging too much for the milk, and the students wouldn't buy it.

This Resolution failed with Mr. Stycos in favor; Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mrs. White were opposed.

NO. 04-8-14 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee adopts a policy that elementary school students shall not be permitted access to vending machines.

Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Cardarelli that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos stated that this Resolution merely formalizes the existing policy. The vending machines are located in the teachers' lunch rooms in the elementary schools. There is nothing from stopping an energetic principal from putting them in the hallways or outside the cafeteria.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that if the committee were to enact a policy, it would require two readings. Mr. Stycos said that his intention would be to adopt policy. Mrs. Ciarlo added that procedures would have to be developed to go along with the policy.

This Resolution failed with Mr. Drager and Mr. Stycos in favor; Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mrs. White were opposed.

NO. 04-8-15 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee adopts a policy that at each location where soda, sports drinks and other drinks are offered, water and 100 per cent juice must also be offered.

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Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mr. Cardarelli that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Drager stated that this Resolution was redundant. Mr. Stycos felt it was not redundant. The idea is that under this policy a school could not have a machine that served just soda standing by itself. If it were standing next to a machine that had water and 100% juice, then it would be fine. The Nutrition Committee is trying to establish some rules and limits.

This Resolution failed with Mr. Stycos in favor; Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mrs. White were opposed.

NO. 04-8-16 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee recommends to principals that vending machines not be placed so that they compete with the School Food Service Program, especially during meal times.

The Committee further recommends that 100 per cent juice and water machines be placed in high traffic areas, while soda and candy machines be placed outside or in athletic areas.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Cardarelli stated that he thought Mrs. Greifer, a member of the Nutrition Committee, had clarified this at one of the work sessions. The vending machines could not compete, and they weren't anywhere near food service items. Mr. Stycos said there can't be a soda machine inside a cafeteria during lunch. He doesn't think there is a prohibition on vending machines in a cafeteria. It is the content of what is in a vending machine that the federal government is interested in. This is to encourage the principals that they not put the machines right outside the cafeterias. At Cranston West and Western Hills the kids pass by the soda machines on their way to the cafeteria. They buy the non-nutritious foods and go into the cafeteria defeating the purpose of the federal regulations.

Mr. Cardarelli questioned candy being sold in the cafeterias, and Mr. Draycott explained that the vending machines have to be in the hallway and not in the cafeteria. Mr. Cardarelli said that he would support this Resolution because it is recommending to the principal and not mandating the principal.

This Resolution failed with Mr. Cardarelli and Mr. Stycos in favor; Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mrs. White were opposed.

NO. 04-8-17 – RESOLVED, that the School Committee continues the School Nutrition Committee until June 2005.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Stycos and carried with Mr. Lupino opposed that this Resolution be adopted.

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ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 04-8-18 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Special Education Coordinator, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Drager that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution would appoint a Special Education Coordinator for Cranston Public Schools. She recommended Carolyn Lepore for this position. Carolyn was educated at Rhode Island College for both her Bachelors and Masters Degrees. She has been a special education teacher at Cranston High School West since 1988, and in 2000, she became Special Education

Department Chair until the present. She has served with distinction and brings to the position not only this experience but also her experience in working with outside agencies before coming to Cranston. She will be working with Ann Marie Zodda, Special Education Director, preparing students for outside tuitions and working with students coming back into the district. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Carolyn Lepore without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Special Education Coordinator, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was to appoint a Special Education Coordinator to work with the eastern side of the city. She recommended Suzanne Rathbun for this position. She received both her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Providence College. From 1982 to 1985, Suzanne served at the Behavioral Development Center in Providence, and from 1986 to the present, she has served in similar duties at Joseph Jenks Jr. High School in Pawtucket. She has a wealth of experience and comes highly recommended. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Suzanne without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-20 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of elementary principal, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Drager that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that this Resolution was to recommend the appointment of an elementary school principal. The vacancy is at the Gladstone Street School. She further stated that she has always encouraged people to take advantage of

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opportunities. One of Cranston's own will take advantage of an opportunity. He is Mark Garceau who has been a very successful assistant principal at Western Hills. He has certification K-12 and graduated with a Bachelors Degree from Berkley College of Music and received his Masters Degree from Rhode Island College. He is certified as an elementary principal. From 1987 to 1988 he was a music teacher in Providence. From 1988 to 2000 he was director of instrumental studies, and from 2001 to present he was assistant principal at Western Hills Middle School. Mark comes with seventeen

years experience. He is a workaholic, and Mrs. Ciarlo told him that he had to pick a lane. She is sure he will love it at Gladstone School, and the parents, students, and teachers will embrace him. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Mark Garceau without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-21 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Special Education Department Chair, Bain Middle School, be approved.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Drager that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was to appoint a Special Education Department Chair at Bain Middle School. She recommended Roseanne Parisi for this position. She has twenty-four years experience. She is certified in special education elementary and middle. Roseanne received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Rhode Island College. She has experience working at the Trudeau Center, Cranston Center for Retarded Citizens, West Bay Residential Services, and presently at Bain Middle School as a special education teacher. Roseanne is a dedicated worker and will have an unusual opportunity to work with the special education population at Bain. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Roseanne Parisi to the committee without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-22 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2004-2005 school year:

Jennifer O'Rourke, salary to be at the second step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – University of Rhode Island, B.S.

Experience – Cranston Public Schools, Long-term Substitute

Certification – Early Childhood, (PK-2)

Assignment – Horton School, Kindergarten, .5FTE

Effective Date of Employment – August 31, 2004

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 10811012-512100

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Jean Fryburg, salary to be at the fourth step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, B.A.

Experience – Providence School Department

Certification – Science (Secondary and Middle School)

Assignment – Park View Middle School, Science, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – August 31, 2004

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12311012-512100

Richard J. Iozzi, salary to be at the tenth step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, B.S.

Experience – East Providence School Department

Certification – Vocational Auto Mechanics

Assignment – Cranston Area Career & Technical Center, Auto Mechanics, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – August 31, 2004

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12611012-512100

Gail M. DeRobbio, salary to be at the second step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – University of Rhode Island, B.A.

Experience – Cranston Public Schools, Substitute

Certification – Elementary (1-6)

Assignment – Horton School, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – August 31, 2004

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 10811012 512100

Christina Carter, salary to be at the tenth step plus Masters of the

prevailing salary schedule

Education – Salve Regina University, B.S.; Lesley University, M.A.

Experience – Sharon, Massachusetts School Department

Certification – Special Education/Early Childhood (Severe/Profound)

**Assignment – Stone Hill School, Special Education/Early Childhood,
1.0 FTE**

Effective Date of Employment – August 31, 2004

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12732031-512100

**Mary Crawford, salary to be at the tenth step, Masters plus 30, of the
prevailing salary schedule**

Education – Salve Regina College, B.A.; Rhode Island College, MA

Experience – Cranston Public Schools' Retiree

Certification – Elementary/Reading

Assignment – Gladstone School, Literacy Coach, .4 FTE

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Effective Date: August 31, 2004

Authorization – New

Fiscal Note: 50919121 512100

**Marissa Lombardo, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing
salary schedule**

Education – University of Rhode Island, B.A.

Experience - Student Teacher, East Providence

Certification - Secondary Mathematics

Assignment – Western Hills Middle School, Mathematics, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date - August 31, 2004

Authorization - Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12911012 512100

Stacey Lehrer, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education - University of New Hampshire, B.S.

Experience –Occupational Therapy Internship, Cranston ARC\Cornerstone School

License - Occupational Therapy

Assignment – Itinerant, Occupational Therapy, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment - August 31, 2004

Authorization - Replacement

Fiscal Note - 14732010 511440

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. White noted the additional name of Stacey Lehrer from the addendum to the agenda.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Jennie L. Hebert Elementary

Michael Tomasso English, Middle/Secondary

Maria Ciolfi-Abrams General Subject

Kenneth Kirejczk Social Studies, Middle/Secondary

Karen Saccoccia Special Education, Elementary

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Kristen Nelson History, Secondary

Christen Ahern Special Education, Elementary

James E. Colbert Physical Education, PK-12

Kristen D. Tetreault English, Middle/Secondary

Paul E. Nadeau Elementary

Amanda Longano History, Secondary

Jennifer Kesack Elementary

Deborah Trillo-Pine Elementary, PK-2

Luann S. Turilli Business, Secondary

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-8-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Lisa-Marie Colantonio, Elementary

Effective Dates: September 2004 – September 2005

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-8-25 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be

accepted:

William C. Brannon, Elementary Principal

Peters School

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Virginia Pasonelli, Reading

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

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Janet Tobin, Speech Pathologist

Itinerant

Effective Date: August 31, 2004

James E. Howarth, Social Studies

Western Hills Middle School

Effective Date: July 31, 2004

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo noted that Mr. Brannon who has been at Peters School for a number of years; Virginia Pasonelli, who began her career at Oak

Lawn School in 1971, has been a dynamo at Cranston High East for many years; Janet Tobin, who was a speech pathologist, and James Howarth who taught social studies at Western Hills, have all contributed greatly to Cranston Public Schools. They are owed a debt of gratitude. Mrs. Ciarlo wished them well.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-26 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Michael Lazzareschi, Elementary Principal

Gladstone School

Effective Date: August 16, 2004

Mark A. Thompson, Assistant Principal

Cranston Area Career & Technical Center

Effective Date: August 20, 2004

Maria A. Houston, Special Education Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: August 11, 2004

Stephanie White, Occupational Therapist

Itinerant

Effective Date: August 13, 2004

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. White noted the additional names of Mark Thompson, Maria Houston, and Stephanie White from the addendum to the agenda. Mrs. White also noted the change in effective date for Michael Lazzareschi from August 23, 2004 to August 16, 2004.

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Mrs. Ciarlo thanked Mr. Lazzareschi for all he did for Gladstone School. Some of the benefits of his hard working staff will be realized and shared at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Mark Thompson has made a unique contribution to Cranston Public Schools. While she hates to see him leave, people have to take advantage of bigger opportunities. She wished him well in his new position as principal in Exeter West Greenwich. She also thanked Stephanie White for her contributions to the school system. All these people made the difference to keep this school system going as effectively as it does.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-27 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Tina Carter, Site Manager

Assignment – Gladstone School, 21st Century Learning Grant

Effective Date of Employment – September 1, 2004

Fiscal Note: 19643146-514600

Valerie Salinas, Site Manager

Assignment – Bain Middle School, 21st Century Learning Grant

Effective Date of Employment – September 1, 2004

Fiscal Note: 12247418-518200

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. White noted the removal of Meagan Sharkey as noted in the addendum to the agenda.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 04-8-28 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Lori Lake

Lori A. Johnson

Mary J. Fontaine

BUS DRIVER

Carole A. Manzi

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CUSTODIAN

Frank DiMascio

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-8-29 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Ann DeCesare, Teacher Assistant

Effective Date: October 15, 2004

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-8-30 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, named non-certified staff members be laid off from

their respective positions due to budgetary reasons.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Stycos asked if all those people being laid off were teacher aides, and Mr. Votto responded that they were all teacher assistants. Mr. Stycos asked if some were special education aides, literacy aides, and building aides, and Mr. Votto responded that they were a combination of all three. They were a part of the budget deliberations dealt with in late June. Mr. Stycos asked where things stood with regard to other personnel positions that were eliminated in the budget, for example, library aides, secretaries, and the non-union secretaries. Mr. Votto indicated that as of right now there is one secretary still on layoff, the library aides are still on layoff. They are all in layoff status as a result of the budget. Mr. Stycos indicated that the committee voted not to fund these positions but never voted to lay them off. Mr. Votto explained that the committee voted to lay off the secretaries, but the library aides have not been laid off yet because administration was contemplating the state aid coming in, but they have not been supported in the budget yet. Their status is in limbo. Once administration has direction, they will receive a layoff notice. Mrs. Ciarlo explained that she worked with the staff and took the additional state aid money and made recommendations that will be submitted to the School Committee. Included in that will be the literacy assistants, library clerks, some additional money for texts

and supplies, used buses and energy safety. She commented further that she did not address middle school sports since there had been an offer to do something about it. The energy position is supposed to be self-supporting, but she wanted to put it in so that people knew what the cost would be. The company will be coming to the work session in September. Mr. Votto indicated that the committee will address the teacher assistants at the August 23rd special meeting. If the

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committee waits until the September 14th work session, it will be too late since there is a teacher assistant jamboree on August 24th. Only the teacher assistants will be discussed at this meeting. Mrs. White noted that the full committee should be present for the remainder of the budgetary items, and she will be on vacation on August 23rd. Mr. Balducci indicated that the district has received the final state aid figures. Sometime this fiscal year, the city will revise the schools' budget to reflect the final figure. He has already received the July monthly appropriation from the state, and it is based on the final state aid figures. The district will receive \$512,000 more than was originally budgeted from the state. Mr. Drager added that the city is already holding \$125,000 in moratorium already. He wants to make sure the money is there and has access to it.

This Resolution failed because of a tie vote. Mr. Cardarelli, Mr.

Palumbo, and Mr. Stycos were in favor; Mr. Drager, Mr. Lupino, and Mrs. White were opposed.

Mr. Votto stated that as he suggested earlier, by not laying off these individuals this evening, when they go to the Department of Employment Security, those people we know for sure who will not be called back, they will have trouble or roadblocks in collecting unemployment. Some of them have not sought unemployment. Months have gone by, and they will be questioned why they have not sought unemployment. It has already created a hardship for these people. It will make them appeal to the Department of Employment Security rather than just filing for unemployment.

Mr. Stycos stated that, in light of what Mr. Votto just said, he would ask one of the members who voted against laying off these individuals to move to reconsider this issue. This will cause a hardship for these individuals.

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Mr. Drager and unanimously carried that the committee revisit Resolution No. 04-8-30.

Mr. Lupino stated that he voted no on this resolution. It is a moot point for those who won't be returning to work. In support of them and the fact that the valuable services they provide to the students, he has to vote yes because they will be in a worse situation if he didn't. In response to Mrs. White's question, Mr. Votto explained that

if these people are laid off, it depends upon how many are taken back.

If some of the additional money from the state, the \$512,000, administration would be able to recall the number of people the committee appropriates for. These assistants have a three-year recall right. No one new would be hired; those laid off would be recalled first. Mrs. White added that she would vote yes on this resolution as long as there is a possibility that they can come back. Mr. Cardarelli noted that a discussion was held in the past whereby it was said that these people would be given the opportunity to come back before others are given the opportunity. Mr. Palumbo added that he believed some of the special education people have to be hired back, and the district has no choice.

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They would come back first by law. Mr. Drager stated that the literacy people must be brought back.

This Resolution as reconsidered was adopted with Mr. Drager opposed; Mr. Cardarelli, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mrs. White were in favor.

BUSINESS

NO. 04-8-31 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:

Photocopier Maintenance for the period from September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005 in the amount of \$83,057.50

Number of bids issued 6

Number of bids received 5

Science Supplies in the amount of \$18,376.56

Number of bids issued 31

Number of bids received 17

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 04-8-32 - RESOLVED, that Policy No.'s 411.7 and 5141.32, Anti-bullying Policy for students and personnel, be approved for second and final reading. (Policy is attached.)

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 04-8-33 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2004-2005 Meeting and Work Session Schedule

of the Cranston School Committee be approved.

Moved by Mr. Cardarelli, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

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VI. SPEAKERS – Non-agenda Items

Mr. Stycos requested that, prior to the discussion on the \$512,000 in state aid, that the committee gets from the administration a summary of what has happened with texts and supplies over the last three years. He indicated that he was very confused about the numbers. He would like an idea so that the committee can look at what a normal year was and where the district is now. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that a normal year would have been 2001. He further stated that he would like to look at the figures for library materials as well. Mr. Drager commented that all of this information should be available for the work session.

Jordan Bruno, 14 Rose Street – He referred to an article that appeared in the Providence Journal this morning and read that the Mayor wants to give money to the school department to restore middle school sports. Mr. Stycos commented to Mr. Bruno that based on his

conversations with the Mayor the city received additional money separate from the \$512,000, and he told Mr. Stycos that he would like the school department to add that money to the sports account. Mr. Bruno stated to Mr. Stycos that he was the liaison between the School Committee and the Mayor. Mr. Stycos responded that he was not. Mrs. Ciarlo commented that she had her first meeting with the Mayor in approximately one year, and at that time, one of the things he mentioned was the extra restaurant tax money in the amount of \$80,000. Mrs. Ciarlo asked the Mayor how many people were pressuring him to do this, and he didn't have a large number. She further indicated to the Mayor that she doesn't have textbooks, and with the new test scores coming out, she would like to do some things in literacy. This is a dilemma for the administration and the School Committee in not being able to do some of these things. The Mayor indicated that he would still give the \$80,000 for middle school sports. She told him that intramural sports for middle schools has been bumped up, and this gives everyone an opportunity to play. On an Interscholastic League team, only so many kids make the team. This new method is more cost efficient. She did inform Mrs. White that it was a casual conversation with the Mayor. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that she also told the Mayor that the district should deal with the more pressing issues first. She also told him that it was too bad the City Council didn't give the district the \$700,000 because it will all catch up with us. There is a deplorable supply of library materials, and they need to be upgraded. She has asked Mr. Scherza to look at the population where there are large class sizes so that teacher

assistants can be placed in those classes. Before there were ten literacy assistants, and now administration hopes to add five more. Mr. Bruno stated that the Mayor, who personally sued the committee to cut the budget, and now that it is election time, is riding on his white horse and wants to give the district additional money. Mr. Bruno didn't agree with this tactic. With Mr. Laffey and Mr. Stycos's casual conversation ending up in a newspaper, he could feel what was going on. He has two children in this school system, and he is not running for office. The city took money away from his children's education. Mr. Bruno referred to

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the Cranston East roof issue and indicated that the Mayor knew about the roof one year ago. He now wants to be a superstar and be pro education.

Mr. Bruno also commented that Mrs. White has been a member of the School Committee for sixteen years. He asked Mr. Cardarelli to be the person responsible for making sure that the Bain auditorium is dedicated to Mrs. White. She was a very active member of the Bain PTO. She has been the longest standing chairperson and stood up to Mr. Laffey. She backs down from no one. Mrs. White responded that she wants only to leave office with her integrity in tact. There are some people in this city who are trying to take away her integrity.

She has held it for sixteen years, and she won't allow them to take it away. Mr. Bruno responded that Mrs. White deserves to have something dedicated to her in this city.

Mr. Cardarelli referred to Mr. Bruno's comments regarding the additional funds, and stated that he was somewhat troubled with regard to the discussion that Mr. Stycos had with the Mayor concerning the state aid coming in. This was a private discussion he had with the Mayor. While he is happy that it could reap benefits for the children, it troubled him that an individual member, and not just Mr. Stycos, would have private conversations with the Mayor. He frowned on any School Committee member doing it. The committee should be working as a team, and if it were the Chairperson, that would be fine or a chairperson designee, that would be fine. It is supposed to be a team effort with the committee working together. An individual member working behind the scenes is inappropriate especially with the tenor the committee has had with the Mayor.

Mr. Cardarelli asked if Cranston was a rich enough community to afford middle school sports at the Interscholastic League level that the district has always had. This is a viable debate that the committee should have. When he sees the condition of the school libraries, science and math textbooks, he doesn't think the school department can afford Interscholastic League sports any more. He asked if it really matters if the kids at Bain play Pawtucket or if they play Park View. When the kids are playing soccer, does it matter who

their opponent is? If the district can save a tremendous amount of money and involve more kids and the kids at Bain play more kids at Park View, and the money saved goes to science, the arts, and textbooks, isn't the district better off? When the School Committee had this discussion previously, he supported scaling back sports because it seemed to be a win-win situation. The committee has not seen the report from Dr. Paul Cardoza regarding what the final costs were. There were some questions on what the teacher costs were going to be. He would like to see a more accurate cost for intramural sports. Even if the Mayor was kind enough to say that he was willing to give the district \$76,000, no purse strings attached, Mr. Cardarelli said that he would think it was time for the city to say whether or not they wanted to spend it on sports or on books, the arts, and science. There is a tremendous sports program at the high school level, but is it wise to spend the money on an Interscholastic program or an intramural program. He would like this information before school starts.

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Mr. Drager reminded the committee that as the person who gave the budget presentation to the City Council, the Mayor cut the district for the past two years and all that money is sitting in the rainy day fund. The committee wouldn't have to make these cuts if the people weren't possibly overtaxed. If they had given the district more money, it would be used right now in not having to lay off people. That money

would be helpful for math and literacy to help the students go further with their education to make their lives better.

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Mr. Cardarelli and unanimously carried that the committee adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws 42-46-5(1) personnel and 42-46-5(2) contract and litigation.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 10:18 p.m.

Mrs. White reconvened public session at 10:52 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Palumbo, seconded by Mr. Drager and unanimously carried that the minutes of the August 16, 2004 Executive Session remain confidential.

Moved by Mr. Drager, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the public session, it was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Cardarelli, Jr.

Clerk

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying

(Cranston Public Schools Policy #'s 411.7 and 5141.32)

Policy

The Cranston Public Schools recognizes that each student, staff member, teacher, and administrator has a right to attend and/or work in schools that are safe and secure and are conducive to learning, free from threat of physical or emotional harm, actual or implied.

It is the policy of the Cranston Public Schools that harassment and/or bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will

not be tolerated. This policy, developed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 16-21-26 which defines “harassment, intimidation or bullying” as: an intentional written or physical act or threat of a physical act or threat of a physical act that, under the totality of circumstances: (i) A reasonable person should know will have the effect of: physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property; or (ii) Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student. R.I.G.L. 16-21-26(a)(2).

is in effect while students are on school grounds or property immediately adjacent, using school transportation, at bus stops, or attending school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying occurs when an individual or group, while at school, intentionally assaults, batters, threatens, harasses, stalks, menaces, intimidates, extorts, humiliates, taunts, shuns or maliciously spreads rumors about others or participates in the organizing of others to engage in any of the aforementioned.

Bullying is most often, but need not be, a repeated pattern of verbal, written or physical behavior of some duration. Bullying can include,

but need not be limited to:

- **Social/Emotional** being intentionally unfriendly, name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumors, taunting, deliberately excluding, treating with disrespect ("dissing"), tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- **Physical** pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racial** racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual** unwanted physical attention or contact, sexually abusive

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- **Homophobic** because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality or sexual preference

Any incidences of abusive behavior (verbal, written or physical) including, but not limited to, bullying, harassment, (including sexual harassment as defined by CPS policy #5141.31), blackmail, extortion, intimidation, threats, unwanted physical contact of any kind or fighting will be addressed in accordance with the language regarding such contained in both the secondary and elementary editions of the Cranston Public Schools Disciplinary Policy and Procedure Handbook.

Procedure

- 1. Any student or employee who believes s/he is being harassed, intimidated or bullied should report such circumstances to the appropriate staff member, teacher or administrator immediately.**
- 2. Any student or employee who has information or knowledge of harassing, intimidating or bullying behavior occurring is obligated to report the information to the appropriate staff member, teacher or administrator. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.**
- 3. Upon receipt of information describing harassing, intimidating or bullying behavior, the building level administrator, or his/her designee, shall investigate all accusations. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary sanctions subject to any appropriate due process procedures, and in accordance with available remedies described in the Cranston Public Schools Disciplinary Policy and Procedure Handbook shall be applied.**

The anti-bullying policy detailed here has, with the necessary revisions to language contained in both the elementary and

secondary Disciplinary Policy and Procedure Handbooks, been developed to produce policy documents that are mutually supportive.

It is the intention of the task force responsible for the development of this policy that ongoing and comprehensive in-service training on the policy and its attendant procedures be provided to all Cranston Public Schools professional staff.